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A *Geomys lutescens*, kept in confinement by Dr. Merriam, could run backward as rapidly and easily as forward. The well-known peculiarity of the external genitalia of the male, which are so hidden and modified that the sexes are determined with difficulty, is doubtless connected with this habit, the parts being protected from injury when the animal is moving backward. Another fact learned by Dr. Merriam from the captive *Geomys* is that the tail functions as an organ of touch. It is rather large and fleshy, and is apparently endowed with special tactile sensibility, and is evidently of great value in warning the animals of the presence of an enemy in the rear when they are traveling backward in their dark tunnels.

Dr. Merriam has divided these animals into several genera, but the characters regarded as definitive seem to be hardly sufficient for that purpose. They appear to us to be more properly sections of a single genus.

A Monograph of the Bats of North America.⁶—This work is one of a series of papers intended to illustrate the collections belonging to the United States National Museum. It is, in reality, a revision of a monograph published in 1864 by the same author, with such additions as have been necessitated by the study of new material. The old descriptions have been elaborated, the new standards of comparisons adopted, and many newly observed anatomical details included in the introduction.

The region covered by the monograph includes North America, extending to the southern limit of the United States.

Thirty-eight plates, of skillfully executed drawings, give the details of the external characters, of the osteology and of the dentition. The work is authoritative in this branch of N. American mammalogy, and the student of this subject will find it a *sine qua non*.

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⁶ Bulletin of the U. S. Natl. Mus., No. 43. The Bats of North America. By Harrison Allen, M. D., Washington, 1893.

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